GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST TORTURE
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ratified the United Nations Convention against torture ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the National Human Rights Commission receive daily petieions alleging the use of torture and even of death in police custody and in the hands of other agencies engaged in ensuring the security of the citizens ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government contemplate to take to ensure protection of human rights against torture and other cruel and degrading treatment ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): No, Sir.

(b)&(c): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been receiving complaints alleging torture and cases of death in police custody and also in the hands of other agencies engaged in ensuring the safety of the citizens. The number of complaints alleging torture and violence in police custody received in the Commission during the last 3 years and the current year upto 31.10.2001 are given below:-

1998-99 - 308
1999-2000 - 744
2000-2001 - 638
2001-2002 - 312

(upto 31.10.2001)

(d): The Government is fully committed to the protection of human rights in the country. There are several legal and constitutional provisions which seeks to protect the citizens against all forms of violation of human rights including torture and other cruel and degrading treatment. To further strengthen the implementation of these provisions, Government is sensitizing State Police force, the security forces, through proper training programmes. National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission have been set up with powers to entertain complaints and inquire into allegations relating to violation of human rights including torture. Whenever incidents involving torture and violation of human rights are brought to the notice of the Government, every effort is made to punish the perpetrators and violators of human rights as per law.